Manual scavengers

629. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 13 lakh manual scavengers carry, dispose off human excreta as on date as per reports that appeared in the press;

(b) if so, who is responsible for violation of the Act of Parliament, the Employment of Manual Scavengers and construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act notified in 1997; and

(c) the steps that are being taken by the Central Government to eradicate this inhuman practice?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) started in January 2007 aims at rehabilitation of remaining manual scavengers and their dependents. As per the latest available information received from State Governments, there are about 1.15 lakh beneficiaries eligible for assistance under SRMS.

(b) In order to stop the practice of Manual Scavenging, the Parliament has enacted Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act 1993, which provides for penalties for contravention of the provisions of the Act. There are provisions under the Act 1993 i.e. Section - 3(1) of the Act which prohibits employment of the manual scavengers and construction or maintaining a dry latrine and appoint and notify Executive Authority Under Sub Section (1) of Section 5 of the Act. The Executive Authority thus appointed as far as practicable, try to rehabilitate and promote the welfare of the persons who were engaged in or employed for as manual scavengers.

(c) In order to eradicate the practice of manual scavenging, the following steps are being taken by the Central Government:-

(i) Legislative back up to prohibit construction of dry latrines and employment of manual scavengers in the form of "The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993".

(ii) Implementation of revised guidelines of centrally sponsored Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (ILCS) which envisages conversion of all existing dry latrines into twin pit pour flush latrines.

(iii) Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) which aims to assist the remaining scavengers and their dependents for rehabilitation by providing training, loan and subsidy for undertaking self employment ventures.

Housing Facility

630. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any action plan for providing more housing facility particularly to the lower and middle income groups; and